Plan to boost biotech industry

2625. MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has drawn up an ambitious plan to give a boost to biotech industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan of the Government to encourage bio-technology subject in schools and colleges all over the country to meet future needs of the industry?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has put a "National Biotechnology Development Strategy" in place to give boost to biotech industry. The key elements of this Strategy include steps to reinforce the regulatory system, supporting small and medium sector innovations, building world class human capital and putting biotechnology partnership programme in place for advanced technologies through Biotechnology Industry Partnership Programme and a Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) to act as an interface between private sector especially the small and medium enterprises and various start up industries, These programmes are the main focus of the Strategy for boosting the biotech industry through "public-private partnership".

(c) To meet the future needs of the industry, in terms of human capital, the Strategy focuses on expanding Ph. D. and Post Doctoral Programmes and enhancing the quality of Masters and Undergraduate level education. In an endeavour for a long term strategy, it has been built-in in the 'Strategy' to support institutions providing undergraduate education to achieve 'Star College' status. The Strategy is a road-map for the next decade as an ambitious plan for biotechnology human capital and industry development in the country.

Opening of science and technology centres

2626. SHRI N. R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Science and Technology centres opened/proposed to be opened in the country especially in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the details of the financial assistance along with incentives granted by the Government for the development and promotion of Science and Technology in the country;

(c) whether Government has received some proposals from the State Government for the development of Science and Technology in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of proposals pending with the Government and the time by when these pending proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL):(a) As per the available official statistics, there are 3960 R&D institutions in public and private sector in the country dealing with science and technology, out of which 402 Institutions are in Tamil Nadu.

(b) According to available official statistics, the Union Governnment have funded 2743, 2749 and 3569 research and development projects at a total cost of Rs. 447.62 crores , Rs. 570.50 crores and Rs. 1163.80 crores during the years 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 respectively in the country. The State-wise Statement is attached herewith (*See* below). The S&T Centres can avail of various fiscal incentives such as income tax deduction, customs duty exemption, excise duty exemption etc. as provided in various statutes.

(c) and (d) No Sir. However, the Union Government provides support to scientific research proposals received from research and development institutions, universities, voluntary organizations, state science and technology councils and other autonomous organizations in various states. During the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06, 234, 289 and 372 research and development projects at a total cost of Rs. 43.06 crores, Rs. 48.05 crores and Rs. 116.41 crores respectively were funded in Tamil Nadu.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

State-wise sponsored R&D projects

(Amount in lakh Rupees)

State/UT	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
	No. of Project	Approved cost	No. of Projects	Approved cost	No. of Projects	Approved cost
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	4	70.68	3	43.62	1	6.79
Andhra Pradesh	141	3217.09	188	5689.97	209	13932.61
Arunachal Pradesh	11	81.70	14	192.85	9	56.77
Assam	61	750.61	70	706.43	185	1723.83
Bihar	9	141.96	7	51.46	6	57.57
Chandigarh	51	937.90	41	1176.06	60	1571.11
Chhattisgarh	13	171.77	9	69.19	20	209.04
Delhi	238	6306.70	313	9363.52	359	12979.09
Goa	21	96.80	19	162.55	18	270.21
Gujarat	72	711.49	69	2262.57	107	3435.02
Haryana	50	389.20	28	709.19	44	791.19
Himachal Pradesh	33	460.66	34	404.94	40	732.22
Jammu and Kashmir	24	362.37	13	140.89	15	335 95
Jharkhand	37	1715.93	20	521.01	40	1080.59
Karnataka	232	5539.78	258	6253.45	326	15090.48
Kerala	98	1593.92	103	1777.13	124	2811.18
Madhya Pradesh	40	657.99	46	836.57	111	940.84

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Maharashtra	473	4872.99	363	5754.87	448	19121.37
Manipur	15	89.93	14	111.59	36	227.23
Meghalaya	6	51.36	6	52.59	16	222.58
Mizoram	5	55.75	1	5.85	4	94.04
Nagaland	5	36.16	1	4.20	5	61.62
Orissa	42	780.24	35	345.71	35	1208.29
Pondicherry	18	551.48	17	226.57	13	167.15
Punjab	69	811.72	54	614.79	59	1536.22
Rajasthan	48	626.90	48	669.15	97	1396.51
Sikkim	1	5.00	2	37.38	2	9.50
Tamil Nadu	234	4306.52	289	4805.56	372	11641.28
Tripura	5	111.50	4	32.24	14	37.57
Uttar Pradesh	338	3528.64	314	6267.24	337	11103.97
Uttarakhand	99	1631.55	113	1479.64	117	4186.64
West Bengal	250	4095.77	253	5981.22	340	9341.68
TOTAL:	2743	44762.06	2749	57050.00	3569	116380.14

Steps to revive handicrafts

2627. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to revive those handicrafts which were vanished due to loss of interests by the crafts persons owing to poor return;

(b) if so, the steps taken during each of the last three years and the achievements made thereon;

(c) The amount allocated and spent for revival of such handicrafts during each of the last three years; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken in near future in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No instance about handicrafts that have vanished due to lack of interest by the crafts persons owing to poor returns has been brought to the notice of Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) It is proposed to commission a diagnostic study through a professional Institution to identify crafts which are languishing so as to prevent these crafts from vanishing.

Steps to promote handloom sector in A.P.

2628. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to promote the handloom sector in Andhra Pradesh;